

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 154

Designating January 16, 1994, as “Religious Freedom Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 2), 1993

Mr. ROBB (for himself and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

NOVEMBER 20 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 2), 1993

Committee discharged

JOINT RESOLUTION

Designating January 16, 1994, as “Religious Freedom Day”.

Whereas December 15, 1991, is the 200th anniversary of the completion of the ratification of the Bill of Rights;

Whereas the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees religious liberty to the people of the United States;

Whereas millions of people from all parts of the world have come to the United States fleeing religious persecution and seeking to worship;

Whereas in 1777 Thomas Jefferson wrote the bill entitled “A Bill for Establishing Religious Freed in Virginia” to guarantee freedom of conscience and separation of church and state;

Whereas in 1786, through the devotion of Virginians such as George Mason and James Madison, the General Assembly of Virginia passed such bill;

Whereas the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom inspired and shaped the guarantee of religious freedom in the first amendment;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States has recognized repeatedly that the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom was an important influence in the development of the Bill of Rights;

Whereas scholars across the United States have proclaimed the vital importance of such statute and leader in fields such as law and religion have devoted time, energy and resources to celebrating its contribution to international freedom; and

Whereas America's First Freedom Center, located in Richmond, Virginia, plans a permanent monument to the Statute of Religious Freedom, accompanied by educational programs and commemorative activities for visitors from around the world: Now, therefore be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assem-*
 3 *bled, That January 16, 1994, is designated as "Religious*
 4 *Freedom Day", and the President is authorized and re-*
 5 *quested to issue a proclamation calling on the people of*
 6 *the United States to join together to celebrate their reli-*
 7 *gious freedom and to observe the day with appropriate*
 8 *ceremonies and activities.*

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